

Health Professions Council
12th May 2005

**The Extension of Supplementary Prescribing to Physiotherapists,
Radiographers and Chiropodists/Podiatrists**

Executive Summary

Introduction

After a period of extensive consultation with all interested parties (including representatives of this Council), the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has amended the Prescription Only Medicines (POM) Order to include three allied health professions (AHPs), namely, physiotherapist, radiographers and chiropodists/podiatrists, following appropriate training. The Department of Health has also made similar amendments to NHS regulations in England, to enable prescribing and reimbursement by these AHP supplementary prescribers in primary care. These amendments cover the NHS pharmaceutical regulations, charges regulations and the General Medical Services and Personal Medical Services regulations.

The amended regulations came into force on 14th April 2005.

Decision

This paper is **for information only**. No decision is required.

Background information

“Supplementary prescribing” was introduced in April 2003 and originally applied to nurses and pharmacists only. As a result of the above amendments, it is now, currently, available for nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, radiographers and chiropodists/podiatrists. Changes to add optometrists to the list of supplementary prescribers are expected later this year.

“What is supplementary prescribing?Supplementary prescribing is a voluntary prescribing partnership between the independent prescriber (doctor) and supplementary prescriber, to implement an agreed patient specific Clinical Management Plan (CMP), with the patient’s agreement. Following agreement of the CMP, the supplementary prescriber may prescribe any medicine for the patient that is referred to in the plan, until the next review by the independent prescriber. Unlike independent nurse prescribing, there is no formulary for supplementary prescribing, and no restrictions on the medical conditions that can be managed under these arrangements.” Quoted from the document Medicines Matters: A guide to current mechanisms for the prescribing, supply and administration of medicines, page 4 paragraph 7, published by the NHS Modernisation Agency, 1st March 2005.

A practitioner from one of the above professions must undergo appropriate training before they can participate in prescribing partnerships and have supplementary prescribing rights. On 1st September 2004 an outline curriculum for training to prepare AHPs a supplementary prescribers was published by the Department of Health. The curriculum identifies the key areas that will need to be covered in any course of training

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Background papers

None

Appendices

None

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